

Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board

Small Business Impact Statement

Date: July 15, 2016

Rule Number: 20 CSR 2210-2.030- License Renewal

Name of Agency Preparing Statement: DIFP, Professional Registration, State Board of Optometry

Name of Person Preparing Statement: Brian Barnett

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Name of Person Approving Statement: Kathleen Steele Danner

Please describe the methods your agency considered or used to reduce the impact on small businesses.

After careful consideration and debate, the Board set the proposed limit on the number of distance learning CE hours at 16 every two years. This still allows licensees to obtain up to ½ of their required CE through distance learning. The Board researched similar restrictions in other states and found that most other states allow much less than ½ of the required CE to be obtained through distance learning. The Board also reviewed the results of its biennial CE audit and observed that the majority of its licensees were utilizing distance learning for less than ½ of their CE hours, minimizing the number of licensees who would be adversely affected by this change.

Please explain how your agency has involved small businesses in the development of the proposed rule.

The Board has researched and discussed this proposal during open Board meetings held on 02/12/2015, 06/11/2015, 10/15/2015, 02/11/2016, and 06/10/2016.

Please list the probable monetary costs and benefits to your agency and any other agencies affected. Please include the estimated total amount your agency expects to collect from additionally imposed fees and how the moneys will be used.

No monetary costs or benefits are associated with this proposal.

Please describe small businesses that will be required to comply with the proposed rule and how they may be adversely affected.

Licensed optometrists will be required to comply with the proposed rule. If a licensee is using distance learning to obtain more than 16 of the 32 required CE hours, that licensee will possibly incur additional expenses related to travel to attend CE courses.

Please list direct and indirect costs (in dollars amounts) associated with compliance.

Direct and indirect costs will be associated with travel costs and fees for course attendance. These costs are not estimable due to variations in course locations, travel requirements, variations in course registration fees and licensee work schedules.

Please list types of business that will be directly affected by, bear the cost of, or directly benefit from the proposed rule.

Licensed optometrists would be affected by and bear the cost of the proposed rule change. The Board believes that most licensees will not be impacted by the proposal as most are already obtaining less than 16 of the required CE hours through distance learning.

Does the proposed rule include provisions that are more stringent than those mandated by comparable or related federal, state, or county standards?

Yes___ No__X__

If yes, please explain the reason for imposing a more stringent standard.